



Alaska Mobility Coalition's Veterans Transportation Project



Organized and Facilitated by
Alaska Mobility Coalition and
Andi Nations' Consulting Services

Veterans Transportation Project Beginnings

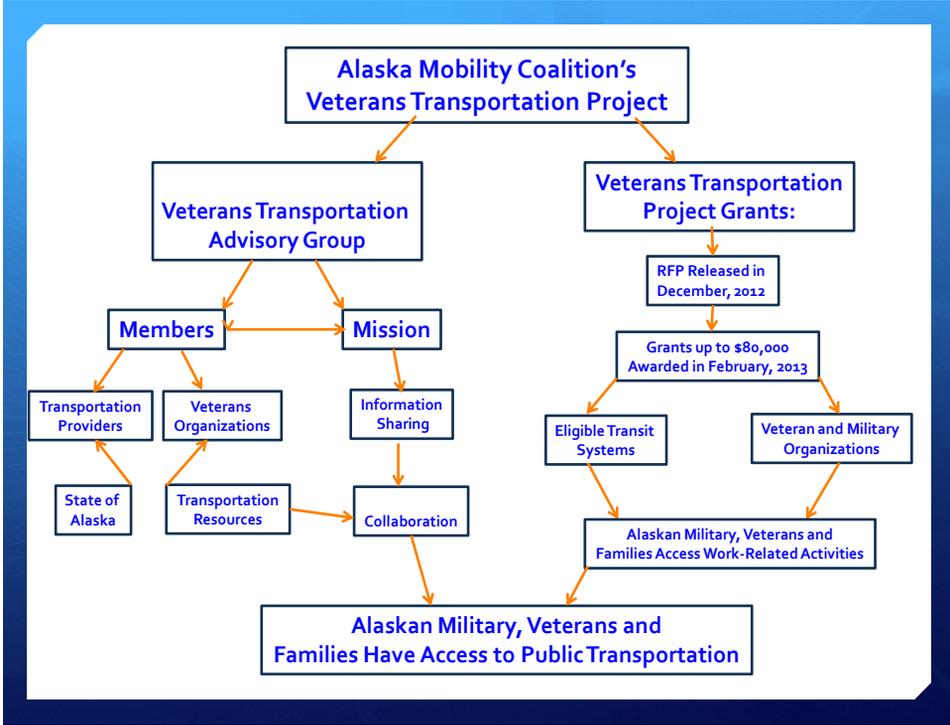


Needs Were Identified

- ❑ Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force testimony from around the State stressed veterans' transportation needs
- ❑ Transportation Community
 - Military and transportation communities need to share information so that future transit grant proposals will better meet the needs of military and veterans
 - Transit providers need a way of being reimbursed for providing reduced fares to veterans
- ❑ Alaska VA
 - Eligibility rules make transportation unavailable to some veterans
 - Need partnership with public and private agencies to help those that are not eligible through VA

Challenges Were Identified

- ❑ Communication across cultures
 - Military organizational culture – “take care of our own”
 - Members not accustomed to asking for help
 - Military family information channels are not known/available to transportation providers
- ❑ Demographic
 - High percentage of vets are from rural areas infrequently served by transit systems
- ❑ Funding
 - Transportation providers pursue grant opportunities, historically not offered by DOD or VA
 - VA-funded transportation services restrict sharing rides with non-veterans



Veterans Transportation Advisory Group

Stakeholder Members



Transit Providers

- ✧ Elinor Harrington, vRide
- ✧ Jamie Acton, Municipality of Anchorage
Public Transportation
- ✧ John Kern, Capital Transit , The City and
Borough of Juneau

State of Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Verdie Bowen, Director

United States Department of Veterans Affairs

Scott Kelter, Alaska VA Healthcare System

State of Alaska

- ✧ Eric Taylor and Stephanie Bushong, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
- ✧ Aaron Gustafson, Alaska Department of Labor, Employment Security Division

Other Veterans Groups

- ✧ Cliff Penn, Armed Forces YMCA
- ✧ Calista Anderson, Vets Helping Vets
- ✧ Paul Sheehan, Alaska Veterans Foundation

Transportation Resources

- ❖ Alaska Congressional Delegation
- ❖ Alaska Mobility Coalition
- ❖ United We Ride
- ❖ National Online Dialogue May 7 – June 8, 2012
- ❖ CTA, APTA, Easter Seals Project Action
- ❖ National Resource Directory
www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov

Veterans Transportation Advisory Group

Mission and Goals



Information Sharing and Collaboration

- ❖ Transit organizations provide information on current services and coordination opportunities
- ❖ Federal and State Veteran departments inform about VA process as well as transportation services that they provide and needs
- ❖ Alaska State departments share types of services provided and funding opportunities
- ❖ Veteran Organizations provide feedback on effectiveness of transportation services available and needs heard through their organizations
- ❖ Congressional staff advise on services available through their delegations
- ❖ Transportation resources share successes from other states

Veterans Transportation Advisory Group

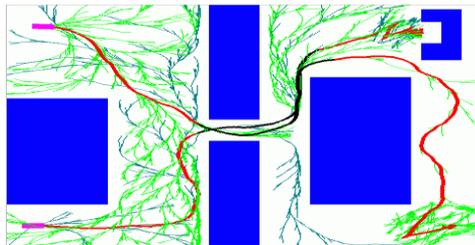
Activities To Date



- ◆ **June, 2012:** VA Process Overview Presented by C.W. Floyd from Senator Begich's staff and Marcia Hoffman-Devoe from Alaska VA Healthcare System
- ◆ **July, 2012:** Nations attended Veterans' Summit in Anchorage
- ◆ **August, 2012:** VTAG members met with Alaska VA and national representatives from the Veterans' Transportation Service (VTS) Program
- ◆ **October, 2012:** VTAG Sub-committee presented a Roundtable Discussion at Alaska Community Transit Conference

Veterans' Transportation Advisory Group:

The Path to Coordination



Veterans Transportation Advisory Group Progress to Date

- Needs identified and shared by VA and veterans' groups
- Armed Forces Y is transporting military personnel and families from bases to transit stops
- Alaska VA has signed MOU with Alaska Native Healthcare allowing Native health facilities to bill VA for pre-authorized services for eligible native and non-native veterans
- VA is in the process of hiring a mobility manager to link VA to public transportation within the Anchorage area

Veterans Transportation Advisory Group Future Actions

- VTAG and AMC will continue to sponsor and organize monthly teleconferences
- VTAG and AMC will work together to establish ways to recruit veterans for employment in the transit industry
- VTAG and AMC will advocate for \$250,000 from the Alaska Legislature to match federal and private funds to expand the Veterans Transportation Project across the State of Alaska

Alaska Mobility Coalition's **Veterans Transportation Project Grants: Getting Alaskan Veterans to Work**

- ❖ RFP released in December with deadline of Jan. 25th
- ❖ With support from the Alaska DOTPF, AMC will award \$80,000 in grants by mid-February
- ❖ Successful applicants will be eligible transit systems, military and veteran organizations
- ❖ Grants will provide public transportation for Alaskan veterans, active military and their families to assist them in getting to work
- ❖ Work will be completed by June 12, 2013
- ❖ FAQs and grant application at alaskamobility.org